

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

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R 271520Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 501

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2640

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN EAID OVIP (ROBINSON, CHARLES)

SUBJECT: ROBINSON- FRG AMB. STELTZER MEETING

1. UNDER SECRETARY, AMBASSADOR AND ASSISTANTS MET WITH FRG AMBASSADOR STELTZER FOR ONE HOUR MORNING OF FEBRUARY 27 TO REVIEW EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC SCENE AND DISCUSS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE POSSIBILITIES, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF ARAB COMMITMENTS EMERGING FROM PRES. SADAT'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND GULF STATES. UNDER SECRETARY NOTED GOE MINFIN'S STATEMENT THAT AT LEAST \$1,000 MILLION WILL BE NEEDED ASIDE FROM ARAB FUNDS (SEPTTEL) AND THAT US AID IS BEING INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY THIS YEAR, BUT COMMENTED MAGNITUDE OF FINANCIAL PROBLEM NOT CLEAR AND SOLICITED AMB. STELTZER'S VIEWS.

2. FRG AMBASSADOR SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ABLE ALLOCATE EXTRA 130 MILLION MARKS IN 1975 ONLY
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WITH DIFFICULTY. ONE PROBLEM WITH MAKING ADDITIONAL

COMMITMENT IS DISSATISFACTION WITH "WAST" OF PROJECT RESOURCES AND INCREASED GOE EMPHASIS ON SPENDING OR CONSUMPTION PURPOSES. HE CITED ADVERSE EFFECT THIS SITUATION HAS ON POTENTIAL FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE. ANOTHER PORBLEM HE MENTIONED IS ATTITUDE OF BONN WHICH TREATS AID TO EGYPT AS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT COMMITMENTS IN MEDITERRANEAN. STELZER SUGGESTED USEFULNESS OF "MARSHALL PAL" APPROACH OF NATO POWERS TO EGYPT AID PROBLEM, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED POLITICAL SENSITIVITY SUCH PROGRAM COULD ENTAIL IF COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE CONDITIONS ON ASSITANCE WERE IMPOSED AS UNDER MARSHALL PLAN. IN ANY EVENT, FRG AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED AGREEMENT ON IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING SADAT BY SHORING UP ECONOMY.

3. UNDER SECRETARY, IN WRAPPING UP, SAID USG IS HOPEFUL JOINT EFFORT WITH FRG CAN BE UNDERTAKEN BOTH TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND TO BRING PERSUASION TO BEAR ON GOE TO MAKE HARD DECISIONS NECESSARY FOR IMPROVED PERFORMANCE IN ECONOMIC FIELD. HE NOTED IMPORTANT ROLE IMF AND IBRD CAN PLAY WITH REGARD TO LATTER POINT. ANOTHER AVENUE IS WORKING WITH ARABS TO BRING ABOUT NECESSARY CHANGES IN GOE POLICY, ALWAYS WITH DUE REGARD TO POLITICAL REALITIES.

4. STELTZER NOTED THAT SADAT IS VISITING FRG BEGINNING MARCH 29. UNDER SEC STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF USG AND FRG CONSULTATIONS ON AID POLICY WITH REGARD TO EGYPT BEFORE SADAT'S ARRIVAL SO AS TO HARMONIZE POSITION, PARTICULARLY ON CONDITIONS ATTENDANT UPON FURTHER AID INCREMENTS. (NOTE: UNDER SECRETARY PLANS TO PURSUE THIS POINT UPON RETURN TO WASHINGTON.)
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